

October 16th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Monday, 20th October 2025** at **6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor C Bowsie **Chairperson**

Councillor M Gibbons **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor C Galbraith

Councillor R Howell

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor A King

Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor A Mathers

Councillor L McEvoy

Councillor D Murphy

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor J Truesdale

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held 15 September 2025

 *Action Sheet from AHC 2025 09 15 - VF.pdf*

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Update

For Decision

 *4. AHC DEA Report 20 October 2025 - vf.pdf*

Page 3

 *4a. Slieve Gullion DEA Action Sheet 2 September 2025 - vf.pdf*

Page 5

 *4b. Newry DEA Forum Action Sheet 11 September 2025 - vf.pdf*

Page 9

 *4c. Slieve Croob DEA Action Sheet 23 September 2025 - vf.pdf*

Page 16

5.0 Rowallane DEA Multi-Sports Hub Review

For Decision

 *5. AHC - Multi-Sports Facilities Review 2025- Rowallane - v5.pdf*

Page 19

 *5a. Appendix 1 - Multi-Sports Facilities Review 2025 Rowallane DEA.pdf*

Page 22

6.0 Downpatrick DEA Multi-Sports Hub Review

For Decision

 *6. AHC Report - Downpatrick DEA Multi-Sport Hub Strategic Review October 2025 - vf.pdf*

Page 38

Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

7.0 Leisure Centre Service Delivery

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person

(including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 **7. AHC Report - Leisure Centre Service Delivery - restricted - vf.pdf**

Not included

8.0 Leasing of Council Land

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 **8. Leasing of Council Land - restricted - vf.pdf**

Not included

9.0 Licence Agreement for Programme Delivery

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 **9. Licence Agreement for Programme Delivery restricted - vf.pdf**

Not included

10.0 Community Support Programme - Advice Services funding

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 **10. Community Support Programme - Advice Services funding - vf.pdf**

Not included

For Noting

11.0 Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Update on Council Programmes

For Information

📄 11. EVAWG Update October AHC Meeting - vf.pdf

Page 41

📄 11a. Appendix -NMDDC EVAWG Local Change Fund Summary - vf.pdf

Page 45

12.0 Policing & Community Safety Partnership Report

For Information

📄 12. PCSP Report AHC meeting October 2025 - vf.pdf

Page 48

📄 12a. appx 1 - FINAL PCSP Policing Committee Minutes 29 July 2025.pdf

Page 50

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Cllr Jim Brennan

Mr Gerard Byrne

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Aurla King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Ms Kerri McConnell

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Selina Murphy

Cllr Kate Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Siobhan O'Hare

Mr Andy Patterson

Cllr Áine Quinn

Cllr Henry Reilly

Cllr Michael Rice
.....
Ms Alison Robb
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
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Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Cllr Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
.....

ACTIONS ARISING FROM ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER 2025

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
AHC/073/2025	Action sheet from AHC Meeting held 18/08/25	It was agreed to note the action sheet	A Patterson	Noted	Y
AHC/074/2025	Council of Sanctuary	It was agreed to note the contents of the report and that Council join the Local Authority Network and work towards formal recognition as a 'Council of Sanctuary'.	A Robb	In progress	Y
AHC/075/2025	Crotlieve Multi-Sports Hub Review	It was agreed to note the updated Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Crotlieve DEA, and approve the following: •To enter a partnership agreement with St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint to progress the development of an all-weather multi-sport hub utilising the allocated Sports Facility Capital Budget for Crotlieve DEA, including the appointment of a Design Team to progress the project to planning stage. •That officers continue to engage with Newry Rugby Club to assist with the delivery of new rugby pitches at Telford Park.	C Haughey	In progress	Y
AHC/076/2025	Kilbroney Pitches	It was agreed to proceed with option 2 as detailed within the officer's report; to commission further consultancy work, at an initial cost of circa £20-£30k (further costs to be determined) in order to respond to NIEA issues, but fundamental planning policy objections will remain	C Haughey	In progress	Y
AHC/077/2025	DEA Forum Update Report	It was agreed to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets	A Robb	Noted and actions being progressed	Y

		attached for: •Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 3 June 2025 •Downpatrick DEA Forum Meeting held on 12 August 2025 •Crotlieve DEA Forum Meeting held on 12 August 2025			
AHC/078/2025	Consultation Response on the Executive's Anti-Poverty Strategy	It was agreed to approve Council's response to the Consultation on The Executive's Anti-Poverty Strategy (2025-2035)	A Robb	Response issued	Y
AHC/079/2025	Programme Delivery Partner	It was agreed to approve the contract extension as outlined within the Officer's Report	C Haughey	Completed	Y
AHC/080/2025	Newcastle Centre Site Selection	It was agreed that the item be deferred for further discussion, and a report be brought back to committee outlining the evidence of all sites that had been considered along with reasons for the rejection of each	C Haughey	Report tabled at SP&R Committee 16 October 2025	Y
AHC/081/2025	Good Relations Programme Update	It was agreed to note the update provided on the District Council Good Relations Programme 2025/26	A Robb	Noted	Y
AHC/082/2025	Play Strategy Programme of Works for Year 2 and 3	It was agreed to note the update provided on the Play Strategy Programme of Works for Year 2 and 3.	C Haughey	In progress	Y

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2025
Subject:	District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	Purpose - To note the report. - To consider and agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached from the DEA Forum Private Meetings listed in 3.1 below.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	None.		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	That the Committee: - ➤ Note the report. ➤ Agree to approve the actions in the Action Sheets attached for: - Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 2 September 2025 - Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 11 September 2025 - Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting on 23 September 2025		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	Support and assistance from partners to deliver actions in the DEA Action Plans.		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒		
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒		

	If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Slieve Gullion DEA Forum Meeting held on 2 September 2025 Newry DEA Forum Meeting held on 11 September 2025 Slieve Croob DEA Forum Meeting on 23 September 2025
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Slieve Gullion District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 @ 5.30 pm in Slieve Gullion Courtyard

Chairperson:	Councillor Aine Quinn
In Attendance:	Councillor Oonagh McGuiness Councillor Declan Murphy Councillor Mickey Larkin
Independent Members:	Cathy McMahon, Independent Member, Confederation of Community Groups Claire Convery, Independent Member, Clanrye Group Ann Grant, County Down Rural Community Network
Statutory Partners:	Graeme Reynolds, PSNI Slieve Gullion Neighbourhood Inspector Genevieve Willis , PSNI Slieve Gullion Neighbourhood Sargent Aisling Pyers, NIHE
Council Officials:	Aoife McComiskey, Slieve Gullion DEA Coordinator Kerri Morrow, Community Engagement & Development Manager
Apologies:	Councillor David Taylor Councillor Martin Hearty Briege Boyle, Community Facilities Manager Maureen O’Gorman, EA Youth Services Thelma Thomposn, Altnaveigh House Trust Elaine Carr, Peace Officer, Barry Trainor, Southern Health & Social Care Trust Teresa Nugent, Independent Member, Rural Health Partnership

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SG/53	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SG/54	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held 1 st July 2025	All actions complete.	Noted.
DEA/SG/55	Telephone Kiosks	Kerri Morrow provided an update on a number of BT telephone kiosks that are planned for removal. If any communities wish to put forward a proposal for repurposing these they can make contact with DEA coordinator.	Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate telephone kiosk information to members.
DEA/SG/56	DEA Coordinator's Report	DEA Coordinator delivered the Coordinator's Report including: Recruitment of Independent Members – No suggestions have been received. If members have identified gaps and there is a person / organisation you feel should be represented, they can be recommended to the DEA Coordinator for further follow up. Upcoming Events- ➤ Batton of Hope Activities 3rd September ➤ Falls Prevention Workshop – Crossmaglen Community Centre 25th September 2pm ➤ Funding Fair – Cloughreagh Community Centre Wednesday 22nd 2pm-7pm (good relations theme – range of funders available to provide advice on the day) ➤ Over the summer we have supported a number of successful Family Fun days / events (Ballymoyer and Whitecross); supported / upcoming celebration events in	Members to email nominations to DEA Coordinator. Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate details for members to promote. Noted. DEA Coordinator to circulate details for members to promote.

		the new play parks in Mullaghbawn and Belleek ➤ Supporting groups with programme planning for Autumn/ Winter ➤ Positive Ageing Month October – funding secured for programmes across DEA inc. gardening and cookery courses (Lissummon, Whitecross, Bessbrook and Camlough). ➤ Mindfulness Art Course running in Newtownhamilton CC – funding secured from MDT team ➤ Two groups in the DEA have been successful their applications for NIHE grants (Whitecross & Crossmaglen) Participatory Budgeting - DEA Coordinator and Kerri Morrow provided an overview of upcoming Slieve Gullion PB event in Lislea Community Centre on Saturday 13th Sep 11am-2pm. DEA Action Plan – DEA Coordinator provided an Action Plan mid-year review report. Many targets have been met or exceeded. Participatory Budgeting added in to Action Plan.	Noted. Noted. Noted.
DEA/SG/57	Emerging Issues	Community Update- Cathy McMahon provided an update upcoming CCG funding workshops and current job vacancy. Graeme Reyonolds provided an update – rural crime prevention is a current priority. Upcoming crime prevention events in Camlough and Newtownhamilton including trailer marking. Graeme Reynolds to link in with Crossmaglen Community Association re. Halloween.	Cathy to email details to DEA Coordinator for circulation. Noted.

		Genevieve Willis is new to post for the area – keen to engage with local community / groups. Claire Convery provided an update on Clanrye work – currently recruiting for all programmes for 16-24 year olds with additional needs. Transport available.	DEA Coordinator to arrange a meeting. Claire to forward details to DEA Coordinator for circulation.
DEA/SG/58	Date of Next Meeting	Tuesday 4 th November 2025 @ 5.30pm – Whitecross Community Hub.	Noted.

The meeting ended at: 6.35pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Newry District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 11th September at 1.00pm in Newry Leisure Centre

Chairperson:	Councillor Aidan Mathers
In Attendance:	Councillor Doire Finn (Via Teams)
Independent Members:	Raymond Jackson, Confederation of Community Groups Colin Hanna, Newry and Mourne Enterprise Agency Eamonn Connolly, Newry BID Allison Slater, Bolster Community
Statutory Partners:	Niamh Malone, Education Authority Youth Service Kelly Gibson, PSNI Aisling Pryers, NIHE
Council Officials:	Kerri Morrow, Community Engagement and Development Manager Padraig Harte, Newry DEA Coordinator Gerard McKeever, Outdoor Leisure Officer Ciara Burns, Community Services Manager
Others in Attendance:	None
Apologies:	Councillor Valerie Harte Councillor Geraldine Kearns Councillor Cathal King Councillor Killian Feehan Pauline McQuillan, Education Authority Youth Service Maureen O’Gorman, Education Authority Youth Service Thelma Thompson, Altnaveigh House Ltd

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
DEA/N/2025/1	Declarations of Interest	None.	
DEA/N/2025/2	Matters arising from Action Sheet from meeting held	Action sheet confirmed as a true and accurate record. It was highlighted that DEA Forum members agreed that physical attendance at meetings is required, and that Microsoft Teams should not be used due to connectivity issues etc. Meetings will alternate monthly between Tuesdays and Thursdays, in line with members' recommendations.	Approved. Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2025/3	Patrick Street site.	Submissions made. Under review.	Coordinator to progress.
DEA/N/2025/4	Play Park Transformations of Windmill Road / Heather Park	The Outdoor Leisure Officer updated members on Windmill Play Park and Heather Park. Windmill Play Park remains viable and will be reviewed next year, while Heather Park is no longer viable and will have equipment removed and the area reinstated with grass.	Noted.
DEA/N/2025/5	Community Services	The Community Services Manager provided an update on the Financial Assistance Call for Capital and Minor Capital for Community Associations, with information to be circulated to members for sharing by Coordinator. A report has been received regarding the	Coordinator to progress. Noted.

		works required at Drumalane/Quayside Close Community Centre. Cllr Mathers expressed disappointment at the progress of the matter and urged the item to be prioritised and that officers return an update to the Forum.	
DEA/N/2025/6	Go Succeed	An update was provided to members: to date, 27 business plans have been created. The Growth Programme has 3 active growth cases, 10 in foundation stage. Grant funding of up to £5,000 will open in October 2025, available exclusively to businesses that are already operational.	Noted.
DEA/N//2025/7	Telephone Kiosks	The Engagement and Development Manager provided an update on correspondence from BT regarding the removal of unused telephone kiosks. Members interested in exploring the potential reinstatement of kiosks for community benefit can discuss this further with the E&DM.	Noted.
DEA/N//2025/8	DEA Co-ordinator's Report.	Update from DEA Coordinator on projects and programmes that have taken place and those planned for August – September 2025. The Meigh Health & Wellbeing Event was held on Wednesday 13th August in Meigh Community Centre with community, voluntary, and statutory partners in attendance, providing support and engaging with residents on local concerns. The Newry Water Festival, a free event held on Monday 25th August, was the busiest to	Noted and Coordinator to progress.

		date, attracting over 1,000 attendees throughout the afternoon. The event was supported by Newry DEA, the Department for Communities, Arbour Housing, Radius Housing, Newry BID, Volunteer Now, and the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service. Pride of Place – Davina’s Ark was selected as Council’s nominated group. Judging took place on 28th August, with judges highly impressed by first-hand experiences shared. The awards will be held on 7th November in Limerick, and members will be updated on the outcome. Baton of Hope – The Mental Health & Suicide Prevention initiative took place on Wednesday 3rd September. Newry DEA supported planning, logistics and delivery, with NLC hosting a charity market, workshops, and the closing ceremony. DEAs across the district also contributed through local activities in their areas. Communities Leading Change – 24 community groups have completed EOIs and will proceed to the voting event on Friday 26th September, 6.00–9.00pm in Newry Gateway. A photocall will take place at 6.15pm for any members wishing to attend. Seniors Programme – A collaboration with DfC/NR, Arbour Housing, Radius Housing, Southern Age Well Network, NMDDC Age Friendly, and CCG. Two events have been held to date (a site visit to Brownlow Museum and Footloose the Musical). The	
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		next event will be an Afternoon Tea Dance in Newry Gateway on Friday 19th September, 2.00–4.30pm, with further health and wellbeing workshops and activities planned for the winter months.	
DEA/N/2025/9	Independent Members and Statutory Partners Update (a) Health and Wellbeing (b) Environmental (c) Economic Development (d) Safety and Good Relations	(a) R. Jackson provided an update on the Norbrook Christmas initiative and will meet with Norbrook to progress plans for this year. A further update will be given at the next meeting. Update on Newry Newcomer Stakeholder Forum – Concerns were raised regarding anti-immigration disinformation. Members stressed the need for Council to clarify its areas of responsibility publicly (e.g., roads service, street lighting, housing). NIHE also noted they have housing ‘mythbusters,’ which will be shared with members through the DEA Coordinator. PSNI reported that a strategy is being developed to address raised concerns. Bolster provided an update on current programmes: supporting 12 young people with additional needs into apprenticeships; operating the Social Kitchen in Marcus Square every Thursday; and hosting a Halloween Disco in the Canal Court	Noted

		Hotel on 22nd October for members aged 18+. (b) Members raised concerns regarding algae in the Canal. It was noted that NMDDC and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council will work in partnership to address the issue. Members raised concerns regarding ASB on boats docked at The Quays. PSNI are aware and will carry out patrols. (c) It was noted that businesses have raised concerns about antisocial behaviour in several locations. Work is ongoing with the PSNI to address this. Floods – Training will be provided on sandbag use, and a pilot warning system is being developed. Concerns were raised about rising insurance costs in BT34 and BT35; Newry BID is liaising with insurance providers on possible mitigations. (d) PSNI Update – With Halloween approaching, emphasis is being placed on fireworks and educating the community on related laws. Engagement is ongoing with schools on the 'Ending Violence Against Women and Girls' initiative. PSNI are	
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		also facilitating and supporting the One Stop Shop in Newry Library.	
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The meeting ended at: 2.10pm

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Action Sheet of Slieve Croob District Electoral Area (DEA) Forum Private Meeting
held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at 4.30pm at The Lodge, Castlewellan

- Chairperson:

Councillor Alan Lewis
- In Attendance:

Councillor Jim Brennan
Councillor Helena Young
- Independent Members:

Heather Holland, County Down Rural Community Network (CDRCN)
- Council Officials:

Elaine Carr, Peace Officer (Programmes Unit)
Bebhínn Clarke, Peace Officer (Programmes Unit)
Kerri Morrow, Engagement & Development Manager
Priscilla McAlinden, Slieve Croob DEA Coordinator
- Apologies:

Kenny Baxter, Frontier Support Network
Councillor Roisin Howell
Councillor Siobhan O’Hare
Richie Shilliday, Dundrum Village Association, Dundrum Cricket Club, RIOT Community Hub

ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed.
DEA/SC/3/2025	Declarations of Interest	No Declarations of Interest were made.	Noted.
DEA/SC/4/2025	Action Sheet of meeting held on Tuesday 17 th June 2025	Action Sheet of Slieve Croob meeting held on Tuesday 17 th June 2025 was adopted as a true record.	Noted.

DEA/SC/5/2025	Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair	On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Brennan and SECONDED by Councillor Young agreed Councillor Lewis as Chairperson. On the PROPOSAL of Councillor Lewis and SECONDED by Councillor Young agreed Councillor Brennan as Vice-Chairperson.	Noted.
DEA/SC/6/2025	Brown Tourist Signs for Drumkeeragh Forest and Tievendarragh Wood	DEA Officer presented a report from member of public that suggested need for additional brown tourist signage and replacement signage on roads leading to Drumkeeragh Forest and Tievendarragh Wood and consideration given to possibility of upgraded interpretative signage at Drumkeeragh Forest, and for pedestrian/Ulsterbus access to Tievendarragh Wood. DEA Coordinator to forward item to ERT department for review and to explore appropriate options for progressing the matter. Members have also requested that Council consider review of district-wide signage tourist sites and upgrades where necessary. DEA Officer provided an update from DFI on signage priority across district. DFI highlighted that many signs were damaged due to storms, signage budget is insufficient to deal with demand for replacement signage and priority given to signs such as STOP and GIVE WAY signage.	Noted. DEA Coordinator. Noted.
DEA/SC/7/2025	PeacePlus update	Peace Officers provided update on PeacePlus programmes commencing in the coming months. Members to forward community groups interested in projects to Peace Officer.	Noted. All members.
DEA/SC/8/2025	Telephone Kiosk	Community Engagement Manager provided an update on the planned removal of telephone kiosks across	Noted.

		the district, noting that there are several kiosks scheduled for removal within the Slieve Croob area. Community Engagement Manager to circulate Telephone kiosk list to DEA Forum Members.	
DEA/SC/9/2025	Action Plan Update	Forum members unanimously approved Action Plan programmes 2025/2026 and associated budget.	Community Engagement Officer. DEA Coordinator.
DEA/SC/10/2025	Date and time of next meeting	Next DEA Forum meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 9 th December 2025 at 4.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.	DEA Coordinator.

The meeting ended at 5.18pm

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2025
Subject:	Rowallane Multi-Sports Hub Review
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director healthy living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living

For decision	☒	For noting only	☐
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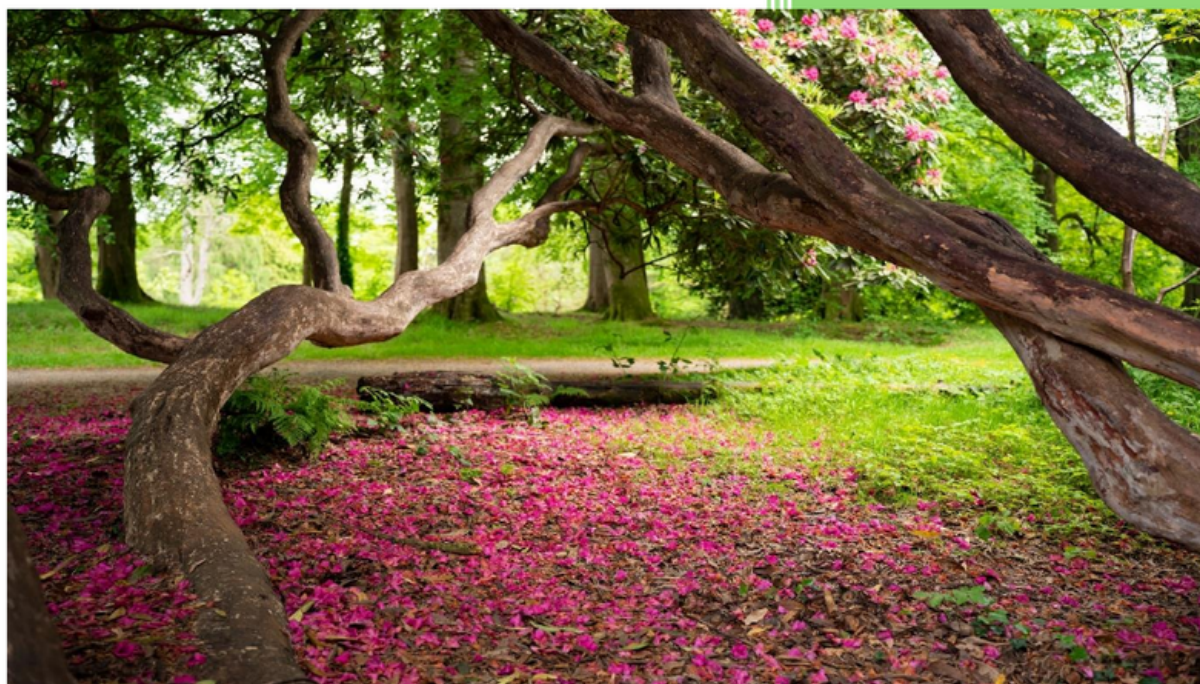
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To provide members with an update on the progress made since the 2021 on the Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Outdoor Leisure in relation to Rowallane DEA, and to seek approval to progress future partnership working and investment priorities for outdoor sports provision in the DEA. <u>Background</u> In 2021, NMDDC commissioned a district-wide <i>Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Outdoor Leisure</i>. The report outlines strategic recommendations for investment at key sites in Ballynahinch, with a particular focus on addressing gaps in training provision for association football, Gaelic games, and hockey. The 2021 review concluded that Rowallane DEA had a shortfall of facilities for mid-week training, most notably in association football but also impacting Gaelic games and hockey.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	An update of the Facilities Review was undertaken earlier this year. This 2025 review has reassessed provision and identified opportunities for targeted investment to address identify gaps through improvements at: 1. St Colman's High School and Sixth Form College, Ballynahinch 2. Langley Road Playing Fields, Ballynahinch The revised recommendations seek to balance immediate facility needs with longer-term strategic hub development, supporting growth across multiple sports. A summary of previous development at these two sites is provided below. <u>St Colman's High School and Sixth Form College:</u> • Floodlit AstroTurf pitch (2010), funded by Sport NI and legacy Down District Council. • Council manages community use; also invested in a two-room changing block. • Pitch currently used for school PE, local football and GAA training, and was the home base for Ballynahinch Hockey Club. • After 15 years, the pitch surface is significantly degraded with sinking lines and hollows. • Hockey can no longer be played, forcing Ballynahinch Hockey Club to relocate to Saintfield.

	Langley Road Playing Fields: • Council-owned site with two full-size grass football pitches, two shale pitches (one floodlit), small tarmac pitch, MUGA, children's play park, changing facilities, and small car park. • The shale pitches remain in good condition but are obsolete for hockey, as the governing body no longer recognises shale for training or competition. • The site has the potential for a multi-sport hub development for football, hockey, and rugby. • A grouping of local clubs has expressed interest in developing Langley Road into a community-led sports hub. In order to address the ongoing gaps in outdoor sports provision, it is proposed that Council progress the following opportunities, utilising the allocated Sports Facility Capital Budget for Rowallane DEA: 1. St Colman's High School and Sixth Form College – the hockey pitch to be upgraded from a 2G to a 3G playing surface (supported by the school). 2. Council to upgrade the current shale hockey pitch at Langley road to a 2G surface to accommodate Ballynahinch hockey club from St Colmans school and to install any required infrastructure to assist with the future masterplan for Langley road project. 3. Council to commission a masterplan for the site and to engage the local constituted group, including sports clubs and representative sports bodies, to progress a lease of the Langley Road site, allowing the group to seek external funding in order to develop the site for other sports usage.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that members note the updated Multi-Sports Facilities Review for Rowallane DEA, and grant approval for: 1. Replacement of the existing AstroTurf pitch at St Colman's High and Sixth Form College with a 3G surface. 2. Development of a new AstroTurf pitch at Langley Road Playing Fields, to accommodate Ballynahinch hockey club and to install any required infrastructure to assist with the future masterplan for Langley road project. 3. Council to commission a masterplan for the Langley Road site and to engage the local constituted group, including sports clubs and representative sports bodies, to progress a lease of the site, allowing the group to seek external funding in order to develop the site for other sports usage.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The Sports Facility Capital Budget of £500,000 for Rowallane DEA has been agreed and is profiled in Council's Capital Programme. External partnership funding will be essential to secure project delivery.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒

5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐ If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 - Multi-Sports Facilities Review 2025 – Rowallane DEA
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

Multi-Sports Facilities Review 2025

Rowallane DEA



October 2025



Milecross Cottage, 9 Milecross Road, Newtownards BT23 4TX

Mob: 07962 300361

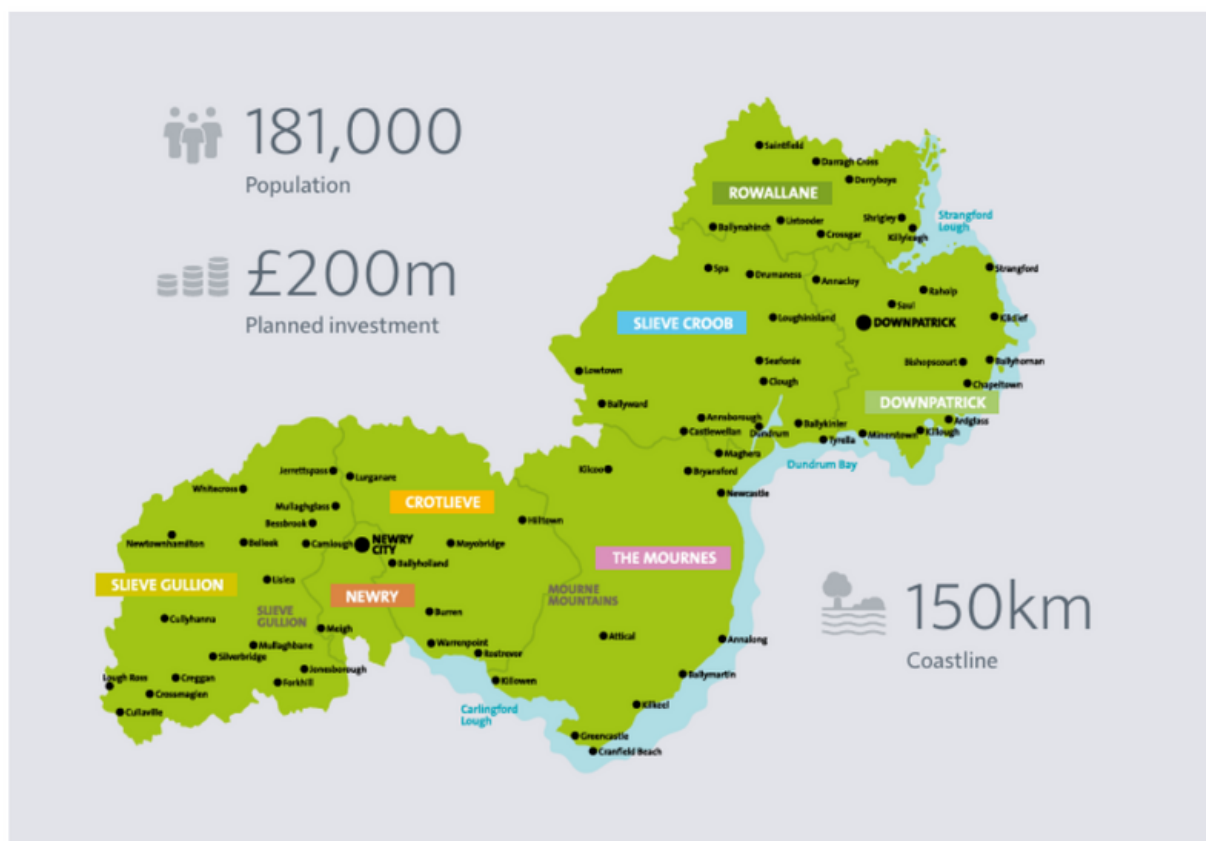
Email: info@otiumleisureconsultancy.co.uk



Comhairle Ceantair
an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

1. Introduction

- 1.1** In 2021 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council commissioned a district-wide Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Outdoor Leisure. The aim of the review was to *‘prepare an overall sport pitch audit inclusive of a sports hub strategy to provide the appropriate evidence-based research to identify the need and provide a series of comprehensive recommendations.’* The facilities under consideration were for the sports of association football, athletics, cricket, gaelic games, hockey, lawn bowls, rugby, water sports. The review was conducted in two parts; the first part was a pitch condition survey and audit of all sports clubs across the eight sports, the second part was a strategy (including recommendations) for each sport and for each District Electoral Area (DEA).
- 1.2** This review (2025), commissioned by the Council, is to re-visit provision for pitches in Rowallane DEA for association football, gaelic games and hockey. The review is prompted by new information relating to the AstroTurf (2G) pitch at St Colman’s High and Sixth Form College and a sport facilities project at Langley Road; both are in Ballynahinch.
- 1.3** Rowallane is one the seven DEAs that make up the district of Newry, Mourne and Down. Rowallane lies to the north of the district, bounded with the district by Slieve Croob DEA and Downpatrick DEA, and externally by the local authority areas of Lisburn Castlereagh and Ards & North Down. The main urban areas in Rowallane DEA are Ballynahinch and Saintfield with smaller settlements at Crossgar, Killyleagh, Shrigley, Derryboye and Darragh Cross. Ballynahinch is approximately 12 miles from the city of Lisburn and approximately 16 miles from Belfast. To the east of Rowallane DEA is Strangford Lough.



2. Rowallane DEA in 2021

Adequacy of Provision

2.1 The 2021 audit process, which involved survey work, site inspections and consultation with sports groups, resulted in identification of need for each sport. Need was assessed for association football, gaelic games and hockey through analysis of adequacy of provision following a Sport England methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field: Playing Pitch Model'. The following table presents a summary of adequacy of provision in 2021 expressed as 'facility shortfall – yes/no' for the three sports in Rowallane DEA.

Adequacy of Provision – Rowallane DEA in 2021		
Sport	Adequacy of Provision	Facility Shortfall?
Association Football – Matches	Adult plus 1 pitch; Youth minus 1 pitch	Yes
Association Football – Training	Minus 39 one-hour slots (3G)	Yes
Gaelic Games	Minus 1 pitch	Yes
Hockey	Supply meeting demand	No

2.2 This summary shows that:



For **association football** the supply of pitches just meets demand for adult matches (+ one pitch) and just falls short of demand for youth matches (- one pitch). Looking at the supply of pitches for mid-week training there is a significant shortfall both for adult and youth training, assessed as a shortfall of 39 x one hour slots on 3G surfaces. There are six association football clubs in Rowallane DEA, fielding 16 adult and 53 youth/junior teams, a total of 1,054 players. There are eight full size grass association football pitches, six small size pitches and one (school-based) multi-sport 3G pitch in Rowallane DEA. *Demand for training for association football considers the supply of one hour 'slots' Monday to Thursday evenings on 3G surfaces.*



For **gaelic games** there is a shortfall of one pitch. There is one gaelic games club in Rowallane DEA, fielding five adult and 25 youth/junior teams, a total of 467 players. There is one full-size club-based (St Mochais, Darragh Cross GAC) grass gaelic games pitch in Rowallane DEA, a training size grass pitch at St Colmcille's High School and a training size grass pitch at Mochais, Darragh cross GAC.



For **hockey** the results show that the supply of facilities meets demand for all age groups with two pitches surplus for both youth and adult hockey demand. This is based on a quantitative analysis and assuming one hockey pitch can support three adult games on a Saturday afternoon and two youth games on weekday evenings. There are two hockey clubs in Rowallane DEA fielding 11 adult teams and 23 youth/junior teams. In 2021 there were two AstroTurf pitches, one at Saintfield Sports Facilities and one at St Colman's High and Sixth Form College. There was also a shale pitch at The High School, Ballynahinch and two shale pitches at Langley Road, Ballynahinch.

Population

- 2.3 Rowallane DEA has a total population of 20,820 or 11.5% of the district's population, mostly located in the following settlements:

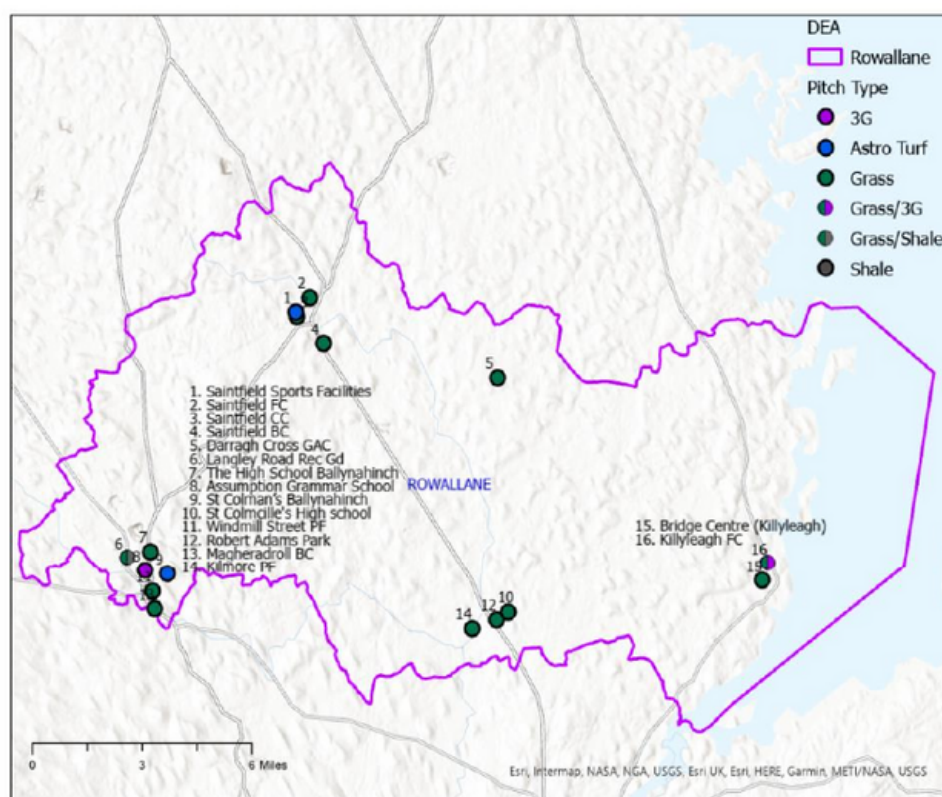
Settlement Hierarchy/Classification	Settlement Name
Tier 1 City and main town	None
Tier 2 Local and small town	Ballynahinch (5,715)
Tier 3 Village	Shrigley (427) Saintfield (3,406) Crossgar (1,892) Killyleagh (2,928)
Tier 4 Small settlement	Darragh Cross (490)

- 2.4 The age profile of Rowallane DEA residents is older than the district's age profile, with 52.7% over 40 years of age compared to 47.8% for the district.

Rowallane DEA in 2021			NMDDC	
Age	Population	% of Population	Population	% of Population
0-15	3,990	19.2	40,972	22.5
16-39	5,860	28.1	53,608	29.5
40-64	6,960	33.4	57,965	31.9
65+	4,010	19.3	29,124	15.9
Totals	20,820	100%	181,669	99.8%

Facilities

2.5 Map 2.1 shows the distribution of facilities for pitch-based sports across Rowallane DEA.



Map 2.1: Rowallane DEA – Distribution of Pitches

2.6 The following table presents a summary of all facilities in Rowallane DEA across association football, gaelic games and hockey in all ownerships. These three sports account for all 'pitch-based' facilities in Rowallane DEA excepting one lawn bowls facility; 74% service association football, 13% service gaelic games and 13% service hockey.

Rowallane DEA – Pitch Facilities					
	Grass		Synthetic		Total
	Full	Small	Full	Small	
Association Football	9	6	1	1	17
Gaelic Games	1	2	-	-	3
Hockey	-	-	2	1	3
Totals	10	8	3	2	23

Facility Ownership

2.7 The following table presents a summary of the ownership of facilities for the three sports, categorised as (i) club/community, (ii) education, (iii) NMDDC.

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA**



Rowallane DEA – Facilities Ownership						
	Grass		Synthetic			Totals
	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Assoc Football	Gaelic Games	Hockey	
Club/Community	5	1	1	-	-	7
Education	2	2	1	-	2	7
NMDDC	8	-	-	-	1	9
Totals	15	3	2	-	3	23

Facilities Inventory

- 2.8 The following table presents an inventory of facilities for the association football and gaelic games under four categories; (i) Council, (ii) School/Public Body, (iii) Leased from Council, (iv) Club.

Rowallane DEA – Facilities Inventory			
Ownership	Facility Name	Quantity/Type	Sport
Council	Bridge Centre	1 x Full grass 3 x SSG grass	Association Football
	Kilmore PF	2 x Full Grass	Association Football
	Langley Road Rec Grounds	2 x Full Grass	Association Football
School/Public body	Assumption Grammar School	1 x Full 3G	Association Football/ GAA Training
	Saintfield High School	1 x Full Grass 1 x SSG Grass	Association Football
	St Colmcille's High school	1 x Training Grass	Association Football/GAA Training
Leased from Council	None		
Club/Community	Saintfield Utd FC	1 x Full Grass 1 x SSG Grass	Association Football
	Robert Adams Park	1 x Full Grass	Association Football
	Darragh Cross GAC	1 x Full Grass	Gaelic Games

It's noted that Rowallane DEA in 2021 had three hockey pitches, two of which have an AstroTurf surface;

Location	Specification
Saintfield Sports grounds	1 x full size sand AstroTurf
St Colman's High School (Ballynahinch)	1 x full size sand AstroTurf
The High School (Ballynahinch)	1 x training size shale

A further two shale pitches are located at Langley Road Playing Fields.

Clubs Profile

2.9 The following table and Figure 2.1 present a profile of the teams and players in the clubs in Rowallane DEA across association football, gaelic games and hockey; hockey is included as it has the same number of players as gaelic games. The profile shows that association football (six clubs) accounts for 53% of players across the three sports whilst gaelic games (one club) and hockey (two clubs)) each account for approximately a quarter of players.

Rowallane DEA – Clubs, Teams, Players (2021)									
Sport	No of Clubs	Junior Teams		Adult Teams		Total Teams		Total Players	
		No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
Association Football	6	53	52%	16	50%	69	52%	1,054	53%
Gaelic Games	1	25	25%	5	16%	30	23%	467	23%
Hockey	2	23	23%	11	34%	34	25%	468	24%
Totals	9	101	100%	32	100%	133	100%	1,989	100%

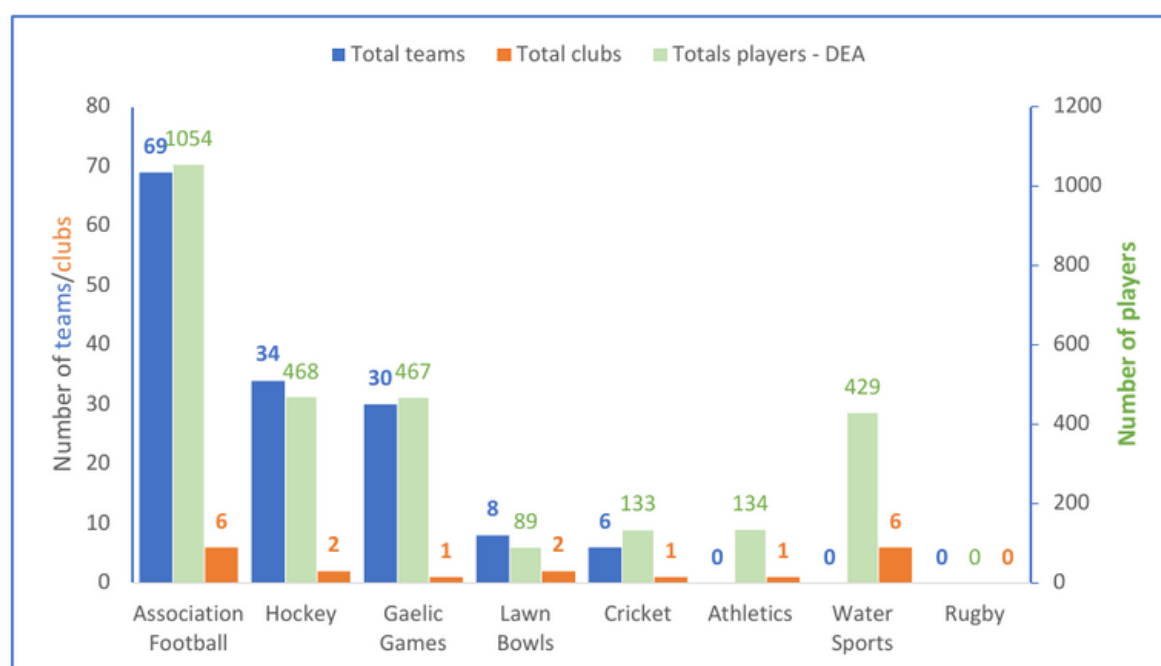


Figure 2.1: Rowallane DEA – Clubs, Teams & Players

Recommendation in 2021

2.10 The 2021 report put forward four sports-specific recommendations for Rowallane DEA, covering;

- ❖ Multi-sports
- ❖ Cricket
- ❖ Water Sports
- ❖ Athletics

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA



A recommendation, collectively covering association football and gaelic games¹ in four DEAs was

Council should continue to encourage and support additional multi-sport provision across the district via the Council's Sport and Community Leasing Policy and Financial Assistance Programme with a weighting system considered to prioritise these types of projects. This process should be considered to designate multi-sports hub provision for Slieve Gullion, Crotlieve, Slieve Croob and Rowallane DEAs.

put forward;

- 2.11** The 2021 recommendation for Rowallane DEA relating to a multi-sports pitch was presented as follows:

¹ The collective recommendation also included rugby given it can be played on a multi-sports pitch.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA



30

Project

- Multi-sports pitch

Adequacy of Provision

There is an under-supply of pitches in Rowallane DEA most especially in training accommodation for association football, reckoned to be an under-supply of 39 one-hour periods/slots. Gaelic games pitches are generally over-used for a combination of training and matches. Three association football clubs in Rowallane DEA each aspire to develop a 3G facility at their own grounds.

Perceived Benefit

A 3G multi-sports pitch will benefit both association football and, potentially the one gaelic games club in Rowallane DEA.

Other Factors

In the event that one or more local clubs progresses the development of a 3G facility at their own grounds, this will contribute to reducing the under-supply of training periods/slots.

Summary Comments

A multi-sports pitch in Rowallane DEA could be located at the Council's Langley Road Recreation Grounds in Ballynahinch. In the knowledge that a number of association football clubs in Rowallane DEA aspire to develop a 3G facility at their own grounds, the need for a 3G pitch on a Council site should be kept under review

3. Rowallane DEA in 2025

Trends in Association Football

- 3.1** There is a clear need for improved pitch facilities in Rowallane DEA. Whilst the main sport needing more facilities is association football, a 3G surface can also be used by gaelic games for training and for competition at some under-age categories. The 2021 report highlighted the potential benefits of 3G surfaces over natural grass;

'3G surfaces introduce the potential for increased use/bookings. Whilst increased usage will naturally increase income, it presents an opportunity to review the cost to the customer which in itself will encourage greater levels of usage and participation. Typically, 3g facilities should achieve a surplus of income over expenditure. In reducing the use/over-use of grass pitches the cost of maintaining the Council's stock will reduce and the quality of the grass pitches will improve. It's noted that 89% of association football clubs are favourable to the use of 3G surfaces for training, whilst only 27% are favourable for the use of AstroTurf surfaces.'

- 3.2** The most pressing need is for training facilities across the district. An analysis of training supply and demand for association football in each DEA demonstrates an under-supply for all DEAs except Newry, here is the complete picture for the Council area:

DEA	Supply- Number of 1-hr slots (3G & ATP)	Demand	Shortfall/Surplus (3G & ATP)	Shortfall/Surplus (just 3G)	Meeting demand? Yes/No
Rowallane	56	79	-23	-39	No
Slieve Croob	8	70	-62	-62	No
Downpatrick	56	64	-8	-8	No
The Mournes	40	93	-53	-61	No
Crotlieve	40	53	-13	-13	No
Slieve Gullion	32	33	-1	-1	No
Newry	164	74	90	42	Yes
Total	396	466	70	226	

- 3.3** This picture is typical of all local authority areas; recent research into provision for association football revealed the need for an additional 164 full size floodlit 3G pitches² across Northern Ireland. Given that the Newry, Mourne and Down district, with 49 association football clubs,

² Provision for football in Northern Ireland; Irish FA 2024 (by Otium Leisure Consultancy). This report also identified the need for an additional 106 grass pitches and an additional 68 new-build changing accommodation.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA

32

accounts for 8.5% of the 576 cubs across Northern Ireland, this points to a need for an additional 14 full size floodlit 3G pitches in the district to fully address current levels of participation.

- 3.4** Looking further into association football in Newry, Mourne and Down, 28 of the 49 clubs have underage youth as well as adult teams, with an average of 10.7 underage youth teams in each club. By way of comparison, in Belfast 29 of 141 clubs have youth teams, an average of 4.2 youth teams in each club. Growth in participation is mostly found in clubs with youth sections; clubs operating with only an adult section generally have only one team. Indeed, in the period 2019/20 to 2024/24 male adult players, registered with the IFA, fell from 31,818 to 28,085 while female player numbers grew threefold (female juniors grew fourfold and female adults nearly doubled) and male junior players nearly doubled.³

	2019/20	2023/24
Female Adults	1,255	2,294
Female Juniors	1,253	5,129
Male Juniors	13,640	25,456

Clubs and Pitches

- 3.5** In Rowallane DEA the picture of clubs and pitches for association football, gaelic games and hockey⁴ is as follows:

Sport	Pitch and Club linked to pitch	No of Teams
<u>Association Football</u>	Langley Road Playing Fields (Ballynahinch). A large site with two grass pitches, two shale pitches, a multi-use games area and play park. Home venue for Ballynahinch Young Men FC.	1 adult male team
	Bridge Centre (Killyleagh). A full size grass pitch and three small pitches Team changing at the nearby Bridge Centre.	
	Kilmore Playing Fields (Crossgar). Two full size grass pitches seasonal booking agreement with Kilmore Rec and Ballynahinch Olympic FC.	
	Windmill Street Playing Fields . One small grass pitch. No formal bookings – land near pitch is subsiding.	
	Assumption Grammar School (Ballynahinch). One full size floodlit 3G pitch. Used for association football training.	
	Saintfield High School . One full size grass pitch, one small grass pitch. Lease agreement with Saintfield FC.	

³ IFA registration database.

⁴ There is no rugby club based in Rowallane DEA.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA

33

	Killyleagh FC. One full size grass pitch, one small grass pitch, one small 3G pitch.	
	Pigeon Hill (Saintfield). One full size grass pitch, one small grass pitch. Home venue to Saintfield United FC.	
	Robert Adams Park (Crossgar). One full size grass pitch. Home venue to Kilmore Rec FC.	
	St Colman's High School (Ballynahinch). AstroTurf floodlit pitch. Community use managed by NMDDC.	
<u>Gaelic Games</u>	St Mochais GAC (Darragh Cross). One full size grass pitch, one small grass pitch.	
	St Colmcille's High School (Crossgar). One training size grass pitch.	
<u>Hockey</u>	Saintfield Sports Facilities. One full size synthetic hockey pitch, floodlit. Home ground to Saintfield Hockey Club.	
	St Colman's High & Sixth Form College (Ballynahinch). One full size synthetic hockey pitch, floodlit. Formerly home ground to Ballynahinch Hockey Club, however, its poor condition makes it unusable for hockey.	
	Downpatrick High School. One full size synthetic hockey pitch, developed since 2021 along with the new school building. The pitch is not floodlit.	

4. Revised Strategic Recommendations for Rowallane DEA

4.1 It's clear that gaps in the provision of provision of pitches in Rowallane DEA, identified in 2021 persist especially in relation to mid-week training for association football. However access to facilities for training is also a challenge for gaelic games and hockey. Revised strategic recommendations look to address current opportunities and site-specific challenges at two sites in Ballynahinch.

1. St Colman's High and Sixth Form College

St Colman's High and Sixth Form College in Ballynahinch developed a floodlit AstroTurf pitch in 2010 with funding support from Sport NI and the former Down District Council. In recent years Newry, Mourne and Down District Council developed a two room changing unit adjacent to the pitch; the Council manages community use of the pitch.

The AstroTurf pitch is regarded as a multi-sport facility accommodating school PE lessons, training for local clubs (association football, gaelic games). Now in operation for 15 years the lines are 'sinking' and the pitch surface has dipped in places causing 'hollow' formations. Ballynahinch Hockey Club regard the pitch as their home base for training and matches, however, the pitch is now unplayable for hockey and the club currently use the Council's AstroTurf pitch at Saintfield Sports Facilities for training and matches; the Saintfield pitch is home to Saintfield Hockey Club who have a seasonal hire agreement with the Council; it is also used by local cricket, gaelic games and running clubs.



The AstroTurf pitch at St Colman's High and Sixth Form College. It is not able to be used for hockey in its current condition and it poses a health and safety risk for other sports.

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA**

2. Langley Road Playing Fields

Langley Road Playing Fields is a Council-owned facility, located off the main route between Ballynahinch and Saintfield and accessed through a housing estate. The site comprises two full size grass association football pitches, two shale pitches, a small tarmac 'pitch', a multi-use games area and a children's play park. There is a large changing facility and a small car park.

The two shale pitches, one of which is floodlit, run end-to-end. They have limited use through the Council's booking system, however, they are used casually by the local community. Historically they were used for hockey training and matches prior to the advent of artificial turf pitch technology for hockey. Shale pitches are no longer recognised for either training or matches by hockey's governing body and any remaining shale pitches tend to fall into disrepair; this is not the case at Langley Road and the surface of the two shale pitches was (in 2021) in good condition, with seasonal maintenance ongoing.



The two shale pitches at Langley Road Playing Fields, both in good condition but no longer accepted by Hockey's governing body for hockey at any level; one pitch has floodlights (8 no.).

- 4.2** In considering investment at these two sites, the Council's approach follows the three-tier approach created for the 2021 strategy, that is:

**Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Multi-Sports Facilities Review – Rowallane DEA**



36

Approach to Investment 1

Council investing in Council-owned facilities.

Approach to Investment 2

Council investing in sports facilities in partnership with other statutory organisations.

Approach to Investment 3

Council investing in/supporting the voluntary and community sector by way of:
(i) Leasing Council land and/or facilities to voluntary and community sector organisations, so enabling them to seek external funding;
(ii) The Council's financial assistance programme either the Minor and Major Facilities Capital Fund or Higher Level Capital Fund.

- 4.3** The revised recommendation relates only to the first of the four projects identified for Rowallane DEA, that is, 1. Multi-sports pitch. The revised recommendation is in two parts:

Part 1: Project

Replace the AstroTurf carpet and shock pad at St Colman's High and Sixth Form College with a 3G carpet and shock pad.

Rationale

The pitch is no longer playable for hockey due to issues with sinking lines and hollows in several areas; hockey needs a true surface for safe play. Whilst the pitch continues in use for association football and gaelic games, the surface needs to be replaced. Rowallane DEA has a shortfall of facilities for training, both for association football and for gaelic games. Converting the St Colman's pitch to a 3G surface will facilitate training for these sports with a greatly improved surface. It will also facilitate competition at under-age levels, not least in the IFAs Small Sided Games initiative.

Investment Approach

Approach 2: Council investing in sports facilities in partnership with other statutory organisations.

Part 2: Project

Develop an AstroTurf pitch on the shale pitches at Langley Road Playing Fields.

Rationale

This will allow Ballynahinch Hockey Club to return to Ballynahinch, so relieving bookings pressure (training and matches) on the AstroTurf pitch in Saintfield. In 2021 Ballynahinch Hockey Club recorded 11 teams whilst Saintfield Hockey Club recorded 23 teams; Saintfield Hockey Club is predominantly female whilst Ballynahinch is

more evenly balanced. Each club, with its own home base will be able to further grow participation.

In recent years a grouping of local sports clubs has come together with the aim of developing Langley Road Playing Fields as a multi-sport hub, potentially for association football, hockey and rugby. Further to the capital project to develop an AstroTurf pitch at Langley Road, it's recommended that council to commission a masterplan for the Langley road site and engage the local group, including sports clubs and representatives sports bodies, to progress a lease of the site, allowing the group to seek external funding in order to develop the site for other sports usage.

Investment Approach

A combination of Approach 2 and Approach 3.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 These updates and recommendation are based on a review of pitches provision and community engagement in Rowallane DEA. For association football there is a shortfall of 39 one-hour training slots; for gaelic games there are 30 teams in St Mochais GAC operating on a single grass pitch; for hockey there are two clubs – 34 teams – sharing use of one pitch.
- 5.2 The recommendation here presented demonstrate the Council's continuing commitment to work with and support clubs and the education sector in the provision of facilities suited to a range of user groups.

October 2025

Otium Leisure Consultancy

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2025
Subject:	Downpatrick Multi-Sports Hub Review
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Haughey, Assistant Director Healthy Living

For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> To seek Committee approval to appoint a specialist provider to undertake a full consultation process with local sports clubs and stakeholders within the Downpatrick District Electoral Area (DEA). This consultation will identify opportunities for suitable sites and delivery models for a Downpatrick Multi-Sport Hub, following previous work to identify suitable options. <u>Background</u> As part of the Council's commitment to delivering strategically located multi-sport hubs across the district, £500,000 has been allocated to each District Electoral Area (DEA) under the Sports Facility Strategy (2017) and the Multi-Sports Hub Review (June 2022). These strategies identified facility shortfalls and priorities for investment to improve access, participation, and inclusivity across the district.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	For the Downpatrick DEA, the 2022 review highlighted the following need: • A shortfall of 24 one-hour training slots per week for association football. • Gaelic games pitches at full capacity, with no surplus for additional training. • An identified need for improved athletics provision, including a second district athletics track to be strategically located in Downpatrick. • An identified under-supply of facilities for water sports, particularly for storage and club accommodation. Since 2022 work had been undertaken to assess several sites for the location of the Downpatrick DEA Multi-Sport Hub, to include development of a full-size, floodlit 3G pitch suitable for use by football, rugby, and GAA. Council's own site at Dunleath Park presents constraints which make the development of a 3G pitch and/or synthetic running track unsuitable at this location. All other site options referenced in the 2022 Review have been fully exhausted and found to be unsuitable at this time. However, it is recognised that circumstances may have changed since the 2022 Review. The proposed consultation will therefore re-engage with local sports clubs, schools, and sporting organisations across the Downpatrick DEA to determine whether any new or emerging opportunities or land availability now exist that could support the development of a multi-sport hub. This consultation exercise and assessment of current opportunities will help to ensure that Downpatrick DEA is given an equal opportunity to progress its hub		

	development in line with other areas of the district and to make best use of the allocated sports facility funding for the DEA. Given the significant and ongoing shortfall in training and all-weather facilities identified in the 2022 Review, it is essential that the Council re-engage with local clubs, schools, and sports bodies to determine updated needs, explore land availability, and assess any viable new locations. It is proposed that Council appoint a specialist consultant to undertake this work, which will involve: • Reviewing and updating the 2022 findings; • Engaging with local clubs, community groups, and schools within the Downpatrick DEA; • Identifying potential sites for development; and • Producing an evidence-based recommendation for the preferred site(s) and delivery model. A further report will be tabled at AHC Committee upon completion of the consultation, detailing the findings and a recommended way forward.
3.0	Recommendation
3.1	Approval to appoint a specialist provider to undertake a new consultation process with local sports clubs and stakeholders within the Downpatrick DEA, to identify viable sites and delivery models for the Multi-Sport Hub provision.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The required budget allocation for this assessment is available within AHC Departmental Budgets.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐

5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☒ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i> Consultation period to be determined based on the consultant's proposed programme.
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐
7.0	Appendices
	N/a
8.0	Background Documents
	N/a

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2025
Subject:	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls – Update on Council Programmes
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	For noting only	x
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	Purpose The purpose of this report is to update members on the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) initiative. Background The EVAWG Strategic Framework 2024-31 was launched by The Executive Office (TEO) on 16 September 2024. This included a Delivery Plan for 2024-26 which supports organisations working to prevent and challenge the attitudes, behaviours and culture that can lead to violence against women and girls. A key action within the Delivery Plan is to support delivery of community focused activity by local groups to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. Council’s EVAWG Action Plan for 2024/25 was approved by TEO in early 2025. It was confirmed that the initiatives outlined in the plan aligned with TEO’s shared objectives on prevention and Council’s commitment to addressing this critical issue was commended. The Executive Office also requested the support of Council via a partnership approach to deliver a localised Change Fund scheme open to community and voluntary organisations in the District. This has been replicated in each Council area with funding allocations to Councils based on population data (NMDDC allocation for 2025/26 = £135,000). The purpose of the Change Fund is to support the delivery of grass-roots community led projects which will prevent and respond to violence against women and girls and that will demonstrate a commitment to change the attitudes, behaviours and culture of violence against women and girls. The NMDDC EVAWG Change Fund (Financial Assistance) opened to applications on 13 January 2025 and closed on 24 February 2025. 28 applications were received, requesting a total of £267,000. Funding was agreed for 16 projects (total value = £142,920.63). Details of these projects are outlined at Appendix 1. £65,000 Momentum Funding was also allocated to Council to deliver a range of EVAWG initiatives during the 2024/25 financial year. Momentum Funding was committed to support several initiatives, including – - Support to a Youth Voice Event in partnership with the Education Authority and Council’s Community Planning Partnership (held 25 February 2025)	

	- Connect – Challenge – Change EVAWG Stakeholder Conference (held on 25 March 2025) - over 250 people attended - Development of a Youth Resource pack in partnership with the Education Authority - EVAWG Training/Awareness events with the business sector (including breakfast engagement events) EVAWG Training & Awareness Sessions for Elected Members (delivered by Women's Aid ArmaghDown, March 2025) - Social Media campaign, including production of short video clips to raise awareness of EVAWG – Open Your Eyes to End Violence Against Women and Girls Violence Against Women and Girls
2.0	Key issues
2.1	TEO have recently advised that further Momentum Funding will be allocated to Council to be committed by 31 March 2026 (subject to approvals, funding for 2025/26 is likely to be at a comparable level to 2024/25 – i.e. £65,000 to NMDDC). Officers have recently met with TEO officials who advised that proposed Momentum Fund activities should include: - Showcase and Shared Learning Event(s) for projects funded under the Local Change Fund - to raise awareness of examples of projects as well as providing feedback to TEO to inform further investment - EVAWG Awareness raising and capacity building activities - Training for staff, councilors and local practitioners on EVAWG. - Support to regional awareness raising campaigns – including the Power to Change campaign It is anticipated that local activities will include training on the Bystander Intervention approach (October 2025), an EVAWG Youth Conference & Change Fund Showcase event (Spring 2026), an EVAWG Media campaign (across print & social media) and further awareness training for NMDDC Members & staff. TEO have advised that Councils will be encouraged to contribute a level of match funding (value tbc) to support EVAWG delivery from the 2026/27 financial year onwards. Appropriate consideration will be given to this during the upcoming Rates Estimates process. TEO have not yet confirmed further funding for an EVAWG Change Fund for 2026/27 – given the proposed timescale for Call 1 Financial Assistance for 2026/27 (Revenue) this may mean that the EVAWG Local Change Fund opens at risk in Call 1, with funding to projects subject to relevant approvals and confirmation of funding from TEO.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee note the contents of this report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	£65,000 in Momentum Funding from TEO for 2025/26 (to be confirmed and subject to approvals). Some match funding required from NMDDC for 2026/27 (value tbc).

5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐ The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☐ If no, please complete the following: The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs ☐

7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – NMDDC EVAWG 2025/26 Local Change Fund Summary
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	None

NMDDC EVAWG Local Change Fund Summary		
Organization	Approved Amount	Brief Project Description
Irish FA Foundation	£14,860	The project aims to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) by using football as a tool for education, awareness, and cultural change. The initiative will challenge harmful gender norms, promote respect and equality, and engage male participants — particularly young footballers, coaches, and fans — in preventing gender-based violence. Over 1,000 young people from across the NMDDC area will take part. The project will be delivered through partnership/collaboration between the Irish Football Association, Women's Aid Federation NI, PSNI, Ulster University and Newry/Mourne/Down based grassroots football clubs.
Bardic Educational Arts and Media	£14,900	Bardic Educational Arts and Media (trading as Beam Creative Network), in partnership with Raise Your Voice, proposes to deliver 40 age-appropriate, prevent-and-deter workshops targeting 1,000 Key Stage 3 students across all post-primary schools in the Newry Mourne and Down District Council area. The project will run from May 2025 - February 2026. The programme aims to empower young people to play an active role in prevention and foster cultural change by increasing empathy and de-trivialising sexism and harassment.
Bolster Community	£15,000	Layered Lives is a targeted initiative supporting autistic women (aged 16-30) in Newry and Mourne. The project is an essential initiative that addresses a critical gap in VAWG prevention for autistic women - by focusing on awareness, empowerment, and safer environments, the programme ensures participants develop the skills, confidence, and support networks needed to navigate relationships safely and reduce risk of harm.
Shamrocks Youth Club, Newry	£3,500	The project aims to raise awareness about violence against women and girls among young people in the community, focusing on its root causes and prevention. Objectives include empowering young people to advocate for the safety and wellbeing of women and girls by engaging them in educational sessions and leadership opportunities, and equipping young people with skills and the knowledge needed to build healthy, respectful relationships.
Crisis Cafe CIC	£15,000	This project will deliver an initiative to prevent violence against women / girls by providing educative workshops, social media training and a safe space (for girls). The project will deliver to 3 groups (rolling) of 20 young people, 10 boys and 10 girls aged 14 and 16 years living in the NMDDC area. It will be delivered in Newry City. The Safe Cafe will be launched in April and will be piloted for the duration of the project - this will operate as a drop-in facility twice monthly for 4 hours providing a support, education, signposting and advocacy.

St Monica's Boxing Club, Newry	£5,000	Gloves Off: Ending VAWG is a transformative awareness and education programme designed specifically for young male boxers to help combat Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). This initiative will harness the discipline, respect, and strength ingrained in boxing culture to promote positive masculinity, challenge harmful attitudes, and encourage young athletes to become allies in the fight against gender-based violence.
Women's Aid Armagh Down	£24,474	The Changing Hearts and Minds Project (CHAMP) will have a dedicated WAAD Worker who will actively seek out groups within our community - including schools, youth groups, sporting clubs, social clubs, faith groups, local businesses etc - to offer a range of supports to help them to address VAWG at their grass roots level. CHAMP will help facilitate healthy and respectful challenge and discussion on EVAWG and will deliver information and awareness sessions to build Healthy and Respectful Relationships equipping participants to recognise signs of an unhealthy relationship but more importantly to consider how they can foster healthy relationships, both intimate and interpersonal.
Three Ways Community Association	£12,500	Three Ways Youth Group's Ending Violence Against Women & Girls (EVAWG) Project is a youth-led initiative aimed at raising awareness, challenging societal attitudes, and promoting early intervention in the prevention of violence against women and girls (VAWG). At the heart of the project is the creation of a 15-20 minute short film that will explore the real-life impact of domestic violence on women, their families, and the wider community. By holding weekly workshops, the group will also engage with survivors, domestic violence professionals, and support agencies to develop a deep understanding of the issue, ensuring that the film is rooted in real experiences and facts.
The Magnet Young Adult Centre	£4,575	The SPEAK OUT project is for young men aged 14-16 years old (from South Down) and is a transformative youth led initiative allowing them to take part in a unique youth project tackling attitudes, behaviours and culture surrounding ending violence against women and girls. The project will encourage young people to explore their own attitudes and their role within society and their community, creating opportunities for them to be challenged, educated and how they can play an active role in preventing violence against women and girls.
Armagh Ladies Gaelic Football Association	£6,250	Teams from U14 - Senior Level will participate in weekly health and fitness sessions with a qualified coach. After each session the LGFA plan to run an interactive session for 15-20 minutes on a variety of topics including changing attitudes, behaviours & culture, understanding what violence against women and girls is (including its root causes) and how to play an active role in preventing it. The LGFA will also hold training days for their coaches and volunteers to educate them on recognising any signs of abuse and raise awareness to prevent violence against women & girls.

The Highland Heathers	£3,125	This project aims to create community awareness of EAWG in South Down, including a major event in Kilkeel (on 2 July 2025) which will promote the Ending Violence against Women and Girls campaign, engage professional speakers/facilitators to and provide advice, guidance and support to over 120 women from the local area. Partner agencies supporting the event include the PSNI, NMD PCSP and Women's Aid.
St John Bosco Youth Centre, Newry	£11,700	This programme will combine interactive workshops from a variety of sources and facilitators, a residential weekend focused on maximum impact condensed workshops and creative activities to engage our teenagers in critical conversations about violence, sexism, patriarchy and male allyship. The final element of the programme will result in a short play created by the young people that will be filmed and used to raise awareness of these issues to wider audiences.
Carrickcruppen GAA	£793.43	The project will enhance social, emotional, physical and recreational functioning through education and group work which encourages learning, facilitates self-growth, builds resilience and supports independent health and wellbeing. The Club will also establish a Youth Forum for working together to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls and have planned a 12-week programme with awareness sessions from agencies including Youth Action, White Ribbon and Women's Aid.
St Patrick's GAC Saul	£1043.2	A Gaelic for Mothers and Others event was held 26 April 2025 - this had attendees from other GAA Clubs in South Down, with a keynote speaker from Women's Aid highlighting the key messages of the EAWG campaign and ways to deliver impactful community led initiatives that aid in changing attitudes, behaviours and culture. The project also aims to provide younger male members of the community with an understanding of boundaries in their interactions with others and what is considered to be respectful behaviour so that they can enjoy healthy relationships.
LGBTQ Women's Group Newry	£1,700	This project will include a series of workshops and events focused around increasing women's safety and resilience - this will include a mix of sessions, some directly related to safety education and training, and some related to empowering women to have autonomy and control over their own lives. The group also run an educational campaign aimed at educating staff in social venues in how to support women when there is a threat of harassment or sexual or physical violence.
Healthy Kidz CIC	£8,500	The RespectHER project will address the root causes of EAWG by providing educational content (videos) and facilitating discussions. By working with schools, youth clubs, and sports clubs, it will empower young and old (namely boys and men) to actively prevent VAWG and promote gender equality and healthy relationships. Participants will explore the root causes of violence, including psychological abuse, and learn about consent, respect, personal space, and gender equality.

Report to:	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting:	20 October 2025
Subject:	Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) Report
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Alison Robb, Assistant Director: Community Development
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Martina Flynn, Head of Engagement

For decision	For noting only	X
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1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	- To note the report. - To note the attached Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 29 July 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 30 September 2025. Background The attachments referenced above are provided to update the Committee on the ongoing work of the PCSP.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	None.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee note the following: Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting held on 29 July 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 30 September 2025.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	None.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☐

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation – N/a</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves. ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes ☐ No ☒ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed ☒
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1: Minutes of the Policing Committee & PCSP meeting held on 29 July 2025, approved at the Policing Committee & PCSP Meeting on 30 September 2025.
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	N/a

POLICING COMMITTEE AND POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP**Minutes of the Newry, Mourne & Down Policing Committee and Policing & Community Safety Partnership Meeting held on Tuesday 29th July 2025 at 6.00pm at Downshire Chamber, Downpatrick and remotely via MS Teams****In attendance in Chamber:**

Cllr Henry Reilly, *Chair*
 Cllr Terry Andrews, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Aidan Mathers, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Kate Murphy, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Jill Truesdale, *NMDDC*
 Superintendent Norman Haslett, *PSNI*
 Chief Inspector Adam Ruston, *PSNI*
 Inspector Darren Hardy, *PSNI*
 Inspector Paddy Heatley, *PSNI*
 Inspector Graeme Reynolds, *PSNI*
 Sergeant Ryan Duffy, *PSNI*
 Roisin Leckey, *PBNI*
 Aileen O Callaghan, *EANI*
 Niall Lawlor, *PCSP Independent Member*

In attendance via Teams:

Cllr Doire Finn, *NMDDC*
 Cllr Declan Murphy, *NMDDC*
 Cllr David Taylor, *NMDDC*
 Inspector Kelly Gibson, *PSNI*
 Martin Healy, *NIFRS*
 Michael Heaney, *YJA*
 Colleen McCreesh, *PCSP Independent Member*
 Michelle Osborne, *PCSP Independent Member*
 Anne Sheridan, *PCSP Independent Member*
 William Slater, *PCSP Independent Member*
 David Vint, *PCSP Independent Member*

NMDDC Staff Officials in attendance in Chamber:

Shannon Creaney, *Acting Safer Communities & Good Relations Manager*
 Alison Robb, *Assistant Director – Community Development*
 Kaitlyn Hanna, *PCSP Officer*
 Jacki Urey, *PCSP Officer*

1 Welcome, Chairperson's Remarks and Apologies

Apologies were received from Martina Byrne, Cllr Oonagh Hanlon, Claire Crainey, Martina Flynn, Tara Campbell, Louise Kennedy & Cllr Conor Galbraith.

NMD PCSP Chair, Cllr Reilly welcomed PCSP Members to the meeting and noted this was his first meeting in the position of Chairperson. He thanked Cllr Terry Andrews, the previous Chair and his Vice Chair Michelle Osborne for their sterling work on Chairing the PCSP over

the past year. He noted that Michelle Osborne will act as NMD PCSP Vice Chair again this year.

Cllr Reilly noted his honour at being made Chairman of the PCSP, he stated that he has always held the Police in very high esteem for their courage & dedication that they exhibit every single day in their duties and determination to keep us all safe. The Chair noted his remembrance for his dear friends Constable Kenny Irvine and Constable Declan Green who died tragically in the line of duty along with two colleagues in an accident that profoundly affected the local community, who still miss their presence on the streets of Kilkeel and Annalong where they became the embodiment of community policing. The Chair recalled speaking to a Portuguese journalist during the Brexit period when the news came through of an attack on Police in Northern Ireland and during the discussion, this particular journalist could not believe that a Police Officer based in Northern Ireland could attend such a range of duties, as in her own country they have specialised officers for virtually every aspect of Policing. He noted that we can be very proud of the PSNI as an institution for the professionalism they demonstrate every day. The Chair also noted that being a Police Officer confers massive powers on the individual and there is an onus on all Police Officers to always work within the law, because a bad or wrong decision can have a profound and damaging effect on an innocent person's life. The Chair noted that he is aware this is not always possible to get right every time, but that it is very important. The Chair also recognised that a Politician in Northern Ireland can carry baggage that may lead to misunderstanding or even mistrust from one section of the community or another, but he gave his solemn word that he will be totally impartial and objective in his role as Chair for the incoming year and will represent every person in Newry Mourne & Down, regardless of their race, religion, creed or political affiliation. The Chair noted that he looks forward to working with Superintendent Haslett & Ms Martina Flynn and their respective PSNI and Council teams.

Cllr Terry Andrews noted his thanks to the Chair and Vice Chair for sending him a letter at the end of his term as Chairperson.

The Chair discussed housekeeping rules before the formal business of the meeting began.

2 Declarations of Interest

None recorded.

3 Draft Minutes of previous PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2025

Read: Minutes of PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting held on 27 May 2025 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor K Murphy, seconded by Niall Lawlor it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Policing Committee and PCSP Meeting held on 27 May 2025 as a true and accurate record.

4 Matters Arising

Cllr Truesdale asked for an update on Antisocial Behaviour at the Barbican in Newcastle. She also asked if the PSNI collect data on E-scooters.

Superintendent Haslett noted that these areas will be covered in his report.

Policing Committee Business

5 District Commander's Report – July 2025

Read: District Commander's Report – Period 2 (copy circulated)

Superintendent Haslett welcomed Cllr Reilly into his new role as Chair of the PCSP and noted he and his team look forward to working with him in the coming year. Superintendent Haslett also associated himself with the Chair's remarks on the outgoing Chair Cllr Andrews, he noted that he had a productive year and thanked him for his dedicated service.

Superintendent Haslett welcomed a new and established senior management team for PSNI within the District. He noted first, Chief Inspector Joe Tierney who covers Performance and also Chief Inspector Adam Ruston who is the Engagement Chief. He also added that they have an established team of 4 Neighbourhood Inspectors who look after the teams across the District. Superintendent Haslett welcomed back Inspector Graham Reynolds to the District, who will be covering the Slieve Gullion area. Inspector Kelly Gibson covers the Newry area Inspector Darren Hardy covers the Downpatrick Area and Inspector Paddy Heatley who covers The Mournes & Crotlieve.

Superintendent Haslett provided the District Commander's Report to the Partnership, highlighting the following points:

In respect of Victim of crime updates, PSNI are currently sitting at 92.6% regarding updates within the 10-day target and they continue to strive to improve this figure. He noted that there are currently no outstanding victim updates across the district.

Superintendent Haslett noted that he has previously relayed to the partnership the pressures on Local Policing, particularly neighbourhoods and local policing teams, he added that this continues, however the new PSNI recruitment campaign means that there will be new recruits coming from the police college in Garnerville on a regular basis.

Engagement

Superintendent Haslett noted that it is a busy time for Neighbourhood Teams with continued engagement. He highlighted on 6th June in Newry, the PSNI Neighbourhood Team in conjunction with the PCSP attended an event for the Muslim community celebrating Eid. The event included the Mobile Engagement Unit, a Crime Prevention stall and also a short talk regarding Police collaborative working and how to contact Police. At this event, there were approximately 300 people in attendance. Adding to this, he stated on 11th June, East Down NPT participated in a Water Safety event at Strangford, this was in conjunction with NMDCC DEA Co-ordinator and NIFRS. On 18th June, NPT in South Down delivered a drugs awareness session at Shimna College Newcastle with colleagues from the PCSP. On 18th June the Slieve Gullion NPT conducted a Kid's Court at St Michaels Primary School Newtownhamilton with PCSP, where Police Officer's conducted Speed checks, and provided drivers who had exceeded the speed limit the opportunity to be judged by the 'Kid's Court' or receive a Fixed Penalty Notice. This was the first 'Kid's Court' in approximately 3 years in the district and was hugely successful with several drivers who engaged with the road safety initiative being 'questioned

about their driving' by the schoolchildren. Road Safety was the core message of this event, and this was acutely highlighted when Police Officers arrested a motorist who was 2 times over the legal limit to drive due to excess alcohol in his breath. This motorist was subsequently arrested and brought to a Police Station where he was then charged to Newry Magistrate's Court for these Offences.

Social Media

Currently Newry, Mourne and Down District's PSNI page has 77,698 followers, 9,000 followers on Twitter and 16,516 Nextdoor Members.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Superintendent Haslett briefly touched on ASB. In a 365-rolling day period Anti-Social Behaviour levels increased by 52 equating to approx. 1.3%. He stated Friday evening remains a time of increased ASB activity, with Wednesday evenings showing higher levels of reports during the month of June. Mr Haslett added that vehicular ASB continues to take place in various locations and will likely increase over the summer months. Typically, this has been weekend evenings in Donard Park and Greencastle Street, Kilkeel and Knochcree Avenue. Mr Haslett also stated Scrambler & Quad bike use is likely to increase over the summer months and repeat locations in June for detection of misuse have been, Carrickbawn Park Rostrevor, St Dylans Avenue Downpatrick and John Street Downpatrick. Superintendent Haslett noted that there has been a number of engagements with NPT across the district this reporting period to address ASB issues.

Domestic Abuse

Superintendent Haslett stated that in this reporting period, domestic incidents decreased by 123 incidents for the last rolling 365-day period, and domestic recorded offences decreased by 135 incidents. Mr Haslett noted that they firmly believe there is a greater confidence in reporting incidents to the Police, Women's Aid, Men's Advisory Project or other charities. Mr Haslett noted that officers have received additional training from Women's Aid in recent times which enhances officer's ability to recognise and support victims of Domestic Abuse. Mr Haslett also noted that they have in conjunction with Women's Aid set up a number of One Stop Shop initiatives. These have been set up in Newry Library and in March 2025 the Down Art's Centre. During May & June in both Newry and Downpatrick a total of 14 people attended these receiving expert advice, support and signposting. Superintendent Haslett commented on OP Encompass; and stated that the current provisional statistics for the new 2024/25 School Year (to 30th June 2025), Police have attended 762 Domestic Incidents where the Op Encompass criteria has been met and referred 1,396 children to Schools/Further Education Colleges, as they have been exposed to an adverse childhood experience. This required a total of 943 referrals phone calls to Designated Teachers across Schools.

Road Safety

Superintendent Haslett was pleased to inform the Partnership that there have been no fatal RTC's since the last report. Currently there have been 2 fatalities in the District since January compared to 4 for the same period last year. Analysis of RTC's with injury have shown similar levels within the past few months, 34 in May and 35 in June. Friday & Saturday continue to show higher levels with peaks in and around 9am and 10am in the morning and between 4pm and 5pm in the afternoon. An emerging risk is an increase in injury RTC's involving motorcyclists, with at least 5 reports in June. Locations with 2 RTC's

with injury took place in June on the Kilkeel Road, Hilltown, one of which involved a motorcyclist, the second of these locations being the Forkhill Road, Newry. Superintendent Haslett added that Road Safety continues to be a priority for the District. He noted that in June officers focused on the Fatal 5 offences, in particular on Drink & Drug Driving offences which included a week of action from 16th – 22nd June. Superintendent Haslett noted that a number of educational and enforcement events took place during this reporting period.

During the period, Mr Haslett advised officers made a total of 35 speeding detections, 56 detections for careless & dangerous driving and 11 detections for using a mobile phone. 29 fixed penalties & referrals to the courts were made for vehicles with defects. 52 detections and arrests for drink driving were made which is the highest for any district outside of Belfast. A further 73 vehicles were detected by officers being driven with no insurance. The Road Safety Partnership Speed camera vans were deployed 69 times, during these a total of 554 speeding detections were made.

Superintendent Haslett announced that the PSNI have taken receipt of 5 Mobile SID's. He added that training of these devices will take place this week. 2 SID's will be used in Slieve Gullion, 1 in Newry, 1 in Newcastle and 1 in Downpatrick. He added that they hope to begin to roll these out in the very near future. Mr Haslett noted that this is a well overdue and welcomed addition to detect speeding throughout the district. Mr Haslett added that they will be deployed as per the Terms of Reference that have been agreed with the Partnership.

Drugs

Superintendent Haslett noted that drugs continue to be a priority for Police officers in Newry, Mourne & Down and they continue to robustly investigate drug offences. Mr Haslett noted that overall drug offences have reduced by 47.

Superintendent Haslett reported that 543 seizures were made during the rolling period which is the 4th highest performing district out of all of the PSNI - with 184 drug arrests. Superintendent informed the Partnership that since November 2024, there has been a total of 9 suspected drug deaths in the district. Mr Haslett added that the victims of these drug deaths are generally quite young. He also added that often it is found that those who take prescription drugs acquired illegally and mixing these with alcohol or other drugs, results in a lethal result. Mr Haslett noted that they are invested in the investigations of these deaths, however this is primarily a health issue, and they have been in touch with partners in the PHA on focusing on education through the media.

Crime

Superintendent Haslett noted that the District's current clearance rate is 30% which means that almost 1 in 3 victims of crime get a successful justice outcome. Superintendent Haslett noted that the figures may not seem successful, but that compared to other areas this is a positive outcome rate. Mr Haslett reported that in total, crime has reduced in the district during this reporting period by 6%. Violence against the person has decreased by 3.8% and Violence with injury has decreased by 4.2%. Sexual offences have increased by 10%. Robberies have decreased by 10.5%. Theft offences have decreased by 10.8%. Burglaries decreased by 1%. Criminal damage decreased by 4.2%. Shoplifting decreased by 5%. Mr Haslett commented on the shoplifting figures. He noted the arrangement with Newry BID where there are dedicated police resources to look at this particular aspect of crime in the Newry area. He added that while this district's shoplifting figures have decreased, the surrounding district's figures have increased by 8%.

South Armagh Policing Review

Superintendent Haslett noted that there has been nothing further to add since the last PCSP meeting.

General

Superintendent Haslett reported to the Partnership that in terms of assaults on Police, Police have attended 20 separate incidents in the reporting period, with a total of 28 officers having been assaulted. He added that there are 9 assaults on Police officers every day across Northern Ireland. Mr Haslett noted that this weekend in Downpatrick 7 officers were injured in one night during 2 separate incidents. The assaults include, punching, kicking, spitting and spitting blood in Police officer's faces. He added that on 20th June the Police Federation NI launched a campaign to bring awareness of this matter to the general public, called 'Let Them Protect'.

Superintendent Haslett noted that it has been a particularly busy and challenging reporting period with a number of serious incidents. On 21st June, there was an attempted murder of a man on Tipperary Lane, Newcastle. This individual was attacked by 2 men with a machete which gave him very serious and life changing injuries. Both suspects were arrested and charged to Downpatrick Court and jailed.

Superintendent Haslett also added that during a joint operation with the National Crime Agency on 19th June, Police conducted 4 searches of properties in Bessbrook, Newry and Silverbridge where a number of items were seized including £1.2 Million in cash, miscellaneous documents and a variety of electronic devices. 2 males were respectively arrested for transferring, possession and converting criminal property and the investigation into this continues.

Superintendent Haslett noted on 21st June Police were contacted regarding a report of a residential fire in Bernagh Park, Killeavy. PSNI, NI Ambulance Service and colleagues from NIFRS were in attendance and tragically a 53-year-old woman lost her life. A young child in attendance was critically ill but thankfully has since been released from Hospital.

Superintendent Haslett noted on 24th June there was a serious sexual assault on a teenage girl on her way to school in Downpatrick. Witness appeals and extensive CCTV and house to house enquiries have taken place and the suspect remains outstanding. Safeguarding measures have been put in place for the victim, and the Public Protection Branch are leading at pace on this investigation. He added that Inspector Hardys team have been in contact with Education Authority and will be present during the new term to reassure schools in the area.

Superintendent Haslett further noted that on 28th June there was a murder in Newry where a 40-year-old male was stabbed, in what is believed to be a domestic incident.

Superintendent Haslett shared that he is continually impressed by the courage, the resilience and the professionalism of his officers in Newry, Mourne & Down. He noted on Monday 23rd June Police received a call from the Ambulance service reporting that a 38-year-old female was in cardiac arrest at Church Avenue, Dundrum and that ambulance service crews were 40 minutes out. He noted that this is a very common occurrence. Officers attended the scene and commenced CPR until the Ambulance crews arrived. The CPR was successful, and the female was conveyed to hospital and made a full recovery. He noted that this is an example of the tasks his officers are asked to do on a daily basis.

This concluded the PSNI report from Superintendent Haslett.

The Chair thanked Superintendent Haslett for his comprehensive report, and he noted the incredible work that is done by the PSNI in keeping the community safe. He also added that it is tragic that we can feel good about there being no fatalities due to RTC's, only to then be made aware of 9 fatalities due to drugs abuse. The Chair noted his shock at the abuse Police officers face on a daily basis.

Cllr Andrews thanked Superintendent Haslett for his comprehensive report. He asked in regard to the Mobile SID's, if there would be a SID available for the Rowallane area due to increased concerns from residents about speeding. Superintendent Haslett advised as per the Terms of Reference, that the deployment and sites chosen will be solely at the discretion of the PSNI and the District Commander and local Neighbourhood Inspector. Deployment will be informed by professional judgement, previous SID's data, product from Police Analysts as well as liaison with the safety camera partnership, NMDDC PCSP and NMDDC. Mr Haslett added that there will be an initial trial period, but deployment can be adjusted as time goes on.

Cllr Finn thanked Superintendent Haslett for his comprehensive report and particularly to the Officers working in Newry. Cllr Finn asked in relation to the 10% increase in sexual assaults - she noted that comparatively it is concerning when there appears to be a fall in other statistics. Cllr Finn asked if there was anything that council can do to help reduce this figure. Superintendent Haslett shared his concerns about this also. He noted that several of the reports that were received over June were Historical reports of offences which occurred some time ago. He added that the vast majority of reports are when the victim knows or has known the suspect in the past. Mr Haslett noted that the particular incident he mentioned in Downpatrick is a particularly rare event, although he noted that one is too many. Superintendent Haslett invited Inspector Kelly Gibson to comment on this. Inspector Kelly Gibson reiterated that many of the reports made in June were historical and hopefully this shows that people are getting the confidence to come forward and report these crimes even if they may have occurred many years ago. Inspector Gibson noted that they are encouraging courses within schools, one in particular is with Women's Aid around Safer relationships & consent and then PSNI Neighbourhood Officers deliver a workshop on the offences. Cllr Finn thanked both for their responses.

Cllr D Murphy wished The Chair good luck in his role. Cllr D Murphy also thanked Superintendent Haslett for his report. He noted his shock at the number of assaults on Police Officers. Cllr D Murphy referred to the operation between the NCA and the PSNI on 19th June. He commended the work that was done on this. He noted the context of 9 drug related deaths in the district and how drugs is a lucrative business which is enabled by white collar criminals. He noted his appreciation that the NCA has taken a stand and thoroughly investigated this side of the drugs trade. He commended the work that has been done to date and supports a further investigation into those that are involved in this activity. Superintendent Haslett noted that this is one of several large seizures that has taken place during his time in post. He added that PSNI will continue to work closely with the NCA in these investigations.

Cllr Truesdale thanked Superintendent Haslett and noted that it has been a heavy reporting period. She echoed the sentiments in commending the Police officers and added that any dealings that she has had with them have been extremely professional. Cllr Truesdale concurred with Cllr D Murphy's comments on the drugs issues. Cllr Truesdale commented on vehicular ASB, she noted the recent car meet in Annalong that the PSNI attended. Cllr Truesdale raised her concerns on upcoming events that are due to take place on Council

ground, she noted the lack of infrastructure and measures from Council means that these events will continue to take place. Cllr Truesdale noted that this must be addressed by Council. Cllr Truesdale notes that these events cause distress to residents and use valuable Police resources. Superintendent Haslett agreed with Cllr Truesdale and noted that PSNI will always attend these events, but this is not the solution in preventing them from taking place. Superintendent Haslett added that he would like to see the Council do more to address these issues and he is happy to work alongside these discussions.

The Chair agreed with Cllr D Murphy and noted his thanks to the PSNI for their work on these seizures. The Chair responded to Cllr Truesdale's concerns and added that these issues will only be fixed with traffic calming measures and agreed that Council needs to put the correct infrastructure in place. The chair thanked the PSNI for their continued work and wished that the community could hear about the great work that is being done. The Chair noted his concerns at the large number of children that are witnessing domestic violence.

Cllr Andrews asked if support services are still given to officers that witness horrific scenes while on duty. Superintendent Haslett responded and advised that there are standard procedures in place for this and if any officers are assaulted the officer will receive a phone call from himself or PSNI Senior Management.

The Chair thanked members for their responses and moved on to PCSP Business.

PCSP Business

6 PCSP Officer Report

Read: PCSP Officer Report (copy circulated)

Shannon Creaney advised that the PCSP Officer Report is for noting.

Shannon Creaney advised Cllr Truesdale that concerns around car meets will be passed through to the appropriate channels within Council.

Ms Creaney highlighted that this has been a busy period with particular focus on diversionary activities in partnership with colleagues in the Education Authority. Ms Creaney noted that PCSP have attended a number of engagement events such as festivals and agricultural shows alongside colleagues in PSNI Neighbourhood Teams. Ms Creaney also advised members that if any PCSP Member would like to attend PCSP events to let the team know so this can be facilitated. Ms Creaney also noted the Mobile SID's delivery and added that when deployment work is confirmed, an email with further details will be issued to members.

Aileen O'Callaghan asked if some work could be done alongside the Community Safety Wardens and the EA. Shannon Creaney advised that this is an action that she will make.

The Chair asked Shannon Creaney if the areas in which the Community Safety Wardens patrol could be looked to cover Kilkeel, he noted that he was happy to discuss this at a later stage.

Cllr Truesdale raised concerns with the SID readings for speeds over 70mph in Dundrum and asked if this is correct. Shannon Creaney replied advising this is correct as per the SID readings, and that work is ongoing with other PCSP's and the PSNI to tackle speeding issues being flagged by the SID's. Cllr K Murphy raised concerns over speeding on Shore Road area Rostrevor and asked if this could be a potential area for a SID. Shannon Creaney advised this could be an area where the Mobile SID's could be deployed.

7 ASB Sub Group Report

Read: ASB Sub Group Reports (copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Cllr A Mathers, seconded by Anne Sheridan was agreed the Committee:

- **Approve the report**
- **Approve the Action Sheet for the ASB Sub Group 1 meeting held on 10th June 2025**

8 AOB

Roisin Leckey spoke on Community Service and the issues faced in getting indoor placements. She asked members if they knew of any indoor work that was needed to please let her know.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair confirmed the next PCSP & Policing Committee Meeting will be held on 30th September 2025 in person at the Council Chamber Downpatrick at 6pm.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 6:58pm